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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE
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ACSI-CX

MAR 27 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: US Participation in Screening and Interrogation of Refugee
Flow (Berlin) (S)

1. (S) In a 29 January 1962 memorandum to USCOB, General Clay reiterated a previous recommendation for discontinuing US screening and interrogation of refugees in Berlin. A staff study was submitted to General Clay by USCOB on 9 February 1962 to support USCOB's position to maintain US participation in refugee screening and interrogation in Berlin. On 21 March 1962, General Clay returned the USCOB staff study and retained his position outlined in his 29 January 1962 memorandum.

2. (S) General Clay's position in general is as follows:

a. That continuance of the refugee screening and interrogation under our authority as an occupying power is now outdated and would lead to misunderstandings which could be more damaging to US than the value of the intelligence warrants.

b. That value of the information obtained from these activities under US guidance in West Berlin does not sufficiently outweigh the value of such information obtainable by exclusive German handling to warrant the risk of further criticism of the US in West Germany press and official circles. General Clay points to the recent tunnel story in that it points a finger, unjustly, directly at US intelligence and he believes this is certain to continue.

3. (S) At the 29 January 1962 meeting of the Intelligence Coordinating Committee, Berlin, the Executive Secretary reported that a memorandum setting forth the Committee's opposition to the elimination of US refugee security screening had been forwarded to the recommending official, identified in the 29 January minutes as "a high US official." It can be assumed that the official is General Clay.

Attachment to USIB-D-67.2/1, 27 March 1962

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4. (S) The withdrawal of US intelligence participation in refugee screening and interrogation in Berlin would have serious disadvantages for the Department of Army and for other US departments and agencies in discharge of their responsibilities:

a. It would preclude timely acquisition of information which is essential to the security of Berlin and of vital interest to the US.

b. It would preclude USCOB from carrying out his intelligence responsibilities as directed by CINCUSAREUR.

c. Such action would further deplete the already dwindling sources of intelligence information available to Department of the Army and the other US intelligence agencies.

d. It is reasonable to expect that the British and French would look upon the action with disfavor since it would make their position in Berlin more tenuous.

e. It would not assure an immunity to damaging criticism by the press or in official circles and could make the US liable to criticism for retrenchment and abandonment of our "forward concept" in Berlin.

5. (U) It is requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the USIB meeting on 28 March 1962 for discussion.



ALVA R. FITCH
Major General, GS
AGCS for Intelligence

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